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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Electrification Administration  
Washington 25, D. C.

November 29, 1951

PERSONNEL LETTER NO. 41

To : All REA Employees

From : John W. Asher, Jr., Chief, Personnel Division

Subject: Answers to Questions About Annual and Sick Leave

The following is quoted from a press release issued by the U. S. Civil Service Commission on October 30, 1951:

"During this year, two different laws covering annual leave earnings have been in effect, and a third law goes into effect January 6, 1952. As a result, a number of questions relating to leave are received daily by offices of the Civil Service Commission. Here are the answers to some of the questions most frequently asked:

1. I resigned from my Federal job in September and was paid for my unused annual leave. Part of this leave was earned at the 20-day rate authorized by the Douglas rider, which was in effect at the time. Since the Douglas rider has been repealed, am I entitled to an additional payment for the leave I earned at the 26-day rate above that of the 20-day rate between July 1 and the date I was separated? If so, what should I do about it?

Yes, you are entitled to payment for this additional leave. Submit a claim to the personnel office where you were formerly employed.

2. At what rate am I now earning annual leave -- at the 26-day rate which was in effect for many years, at the 20-day rate set by the Douglas rider passed in August, or at the 13-day rate authorized for employees with my length of service ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  years) under the graduated leave law?

You are now earning leave at the rate of 26 days a year, as provided by the 1936 law. The Douglas rider has been repealed and the graduated leave system will not go into effect until January 6, 1952.

3. I understand that when the law setting a 20-day leave limit was passed late in August, about 9 hours of annual leave were deducted from my earnings and from those of most other Federal employees. Will we get credit for the amount of leave deducted, now that the 20-day law has been repealed?

Yes.

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4. Did the 20-day leave limit of the Douglas rider have any permanent effect on the annual leave of Government employees who were on the job during the short time it was in effect?

No. Leave authorities say that the repeal of the Douglas rider has the effect of making the entire leave situation just the same as if the rider had never been enacted. Leave earnings of all employees are entirely unaffected by the rider.

5. The new graduated leave law provides for unlimited accumulation of sick leave. I have the old limit of 90 days. Will I be able to accumulate more now?

Not until January 6, 1952, the effective date of the new leave law. In the meantime, you will earn sick leave at the rate of 10 hours a month and, if unused, lose it. After January 6, you will earn it at the rate of 13 days a year, but if unused, keep it.

6. What is the current limit on the amount of annual leave that can be accumulated?

For most employees, the amount is limited to a total of 60 days. Special provisions remain in effect for persons who had more than 60 days when the limit on accumulations was lowered from 90 to 60 days several years ago.

7. Is there a provision in effect now that requires Federal employees to use the leave earned during the current calendar year by next July, similar to the law in effect last year?

No."

As soon as additional rules and regulations are received, you will be informed.

*John W. Asher, Jr.*

